

BUILD SKILLS

Letter to Her Daughter From the New White House • *from Letters From an American Farmer*

LITERARY ANALYSIS

Personal, **private letters** usually have an informal style that sounds like conversation. You might write private letters to close friends or family members. The writer of a private letter believes that the person to whom the letter is addressed is the only one who will read it. In her letter to her daughter, for example, Abigail Adams reminds her daughter to keep all the information to herself.

Public letters, often called **epistles**, are essays written in the form of a letter. These letters are written for a wider audience. The writer can use an informal tone while writing about public ideas.

READING STRATEGY

When **distinguishing between fact and opinion**, remember

- A **fact** is information that can be proved.
- An **opinion** is a personal belief. Opinions can be supported but not proved.
- Phrases such as “I think” and “it seems” often signal opinions.

Use this chart to keep track of facts and opinions in these letters.

Statement	Fact or Opinion?	Words Showing a Judgment If It Is an Opinion	How It can Be Proved If It Is a Fact
The American ought therefore to love his country much better.	Opinion	ought	